SHERLOCK BONES

1

STORY BY
YUMA ANDO
ART BY
YUKI SATO

SHERLOCK BONES

FLASH

BDDM

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

CARING FOR THIS BUNCH OF HOMELESS RIFFRAFF...

Heh Heh Heh

MAN... THIS IS NO EASY JOB.

...ALTHOUGH, ALL I REALLY HAVE TO DO IS TOSS 'EM IN A CAGE.

AND TAKE THE *APPROPRIATE MEASURES* WHEN THE TIME COMES.

CLACK CLACK

JUST DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT RUNNING AWAY.

Not that you have the brains for that.

...YOU BE A GOOD BOY.

CLACK

Such a cheap excuse for a lock!!

RATTLE RATTLE

CLACK CLACK

...Hum.

SMIRK...

It'd take me only a second to unlock this toy.

They once sang my praises as the most brilliant mind on the globe.

If...I were my former self...

CLACK

ZSHH

Or...

...Is this some kind of a plot?

Case 0 ⚜ Encounter of the100th Year

SHERLOCK BONES

Volume.1

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See you later!

Bye!

HUH?

Miki, watch out!!

Miki Arisaka (16)
Second Year at London Academy High School

ZDDM

FLUTTER

Out of the way!

Eeeeeek!!

Of course!

I'm on my way to meet the newest member of my family!!

Sorry! Forgive me? Just for today!♡

Wh-what are you doing?!

Takeru!!

Takeru Wajima (16)

Second Year at London Academy High School

I can't wait!

KACHAK

Go on.

Ha ha ha. Just have a look around. Take your time.

What kind of dogs do you have?

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

KREE

CHOMP

GRRR

Whoa...

ADDD

They've all been abandoned. At least, all the ones brought here have been.

ADDD

They've all been checked out by a vet, so you can take them straight home.

BOW WOW

ARF

I didn't realize the place would be so packed.

ARF

WHIMPER

BARK

BARK

GRRR

RRR

DUUUN

Ooh! Creepy cute!! Oooh, I can't decide!!

Or him?

Ooh! Ugly cute!

DUN

Or him?

PLOP

Ooh! So cute!

How about this little guy?

HM?

I'd take them all home with me if I could.

...

Wow... You really love dogs, don't you?

Ha ha... Yes, sir.

STARE

...

...

Yeow!! The little MUTT bit Me!

You're the dumbest dog I've ever Met!!

He won't eat anything we give him, and he hates people.

Eh?

Uh, I wouldn't recommend that one.

CHOMP

He's one of the stupid ones...

What?!

I'll take him.

Like this isn't the first time We've Met.

Well...

But...but why?! You saw what he did to Me!

Don't! He... he'll bite you...!

SS

I just have this feeling.

STING

STING

TOUCH...

...O-okay. Well, let's fill out the paperwork, then. Step into my office.

So weird...

Thank you so MUCH!

BOW

Yeah! This is the dog I want.

...

Huh?

Oh! He's shaking MY hand! Ha ha ha.

...Huh?

Did some-body... say some-thing?

The pleasure is mine!

Arf!!

Heh heh heh... Nice to meet you.

HEE HEE HEE...

ハハハ

Did I imagine it...?

I...guess not.

...

ニャア

FSHH

You're freaking me out!

...

じー

STARE...

H...hey. Stop staring at me.

...

!

Heeey! Takeru!!

KREE

And you got a puppy!

Oh! I see you've been to the animal shelter.

Dad!

Kōsuke Wajima (48)

Takeru's father, police sergeant

Have you named him yet?

No, not yet.

FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL

Well, doesn't he act like a smart dog!

I know, right? That's what I like about him.

How about something like...

Patra-sche!!!

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

Hachikō!!

Okay, Spot!

He... couldn't hate it more.

And we're in Japan.

SHAKE SHAKE

Well, our last dog was Taro.

So let's just go ahead and call him Jiro!!

Like that Antarctica movie!

Arf!

He's not white.

SNAP

Snowy!!

SHERLOCK!!

Sher...

What was it? Sh... Sher...

I'm not really sure, but I think I had a flash of inspiration.

What's wrong, Takeru?!

What was that?

Wh... Wha—?!

WHAT?

SHERDOG.

...Or something.

SCREEEE

And you can thank my flash of inspi-ration, Sher—

I know, right? All right! From now on, your name is Sherdog!!

HA HA HA HA! はっはっはっは。

A perfect name for a smart dog like him! Good job, Takeru!!

Look! He's trembling with joy!

Oh, I get it! Like the detective Sherlock Holmes, but with dog because he's a dog. Sherdog!

What was that?!

WHAM

MURMUR

MURMUR

Owww...

MURMUR

I...I'm so sorry! Are you all right?

MURMUR

Stop right there!

Eeeeek!

FWEET

BAH

You stupid—! If apologies solved problems, we wouldn't need the police!!

I musta broken a bone or two!! Oh, the pain!

Everything about that guy just screams "bad guy."

This guy just rammed into me! Right?!

N...no, I...

H-hey, come on! I'M the victim here!

You don't look like a man with broken bones...

LEGGO

Erk! It's the police!

COUGH COUGH

Okay then...

Excuse Me!

Did anyone...

SCAMPER

SCAMPER

...

...

Is that true, Takeru?!!

Yup!

I-I didn't!! He ran the light...

Wait a Minute, Dad!

A Million? Now look here...

For about a Million yen.*

Well, I'd be happy to settle this privately.

*A little over $12,000

Erk!

He said the guy on the motorcycle ran a red light!

I knew I'd find a witness, and here he is!

B...but...

!

Well, why don't you tell me all about it in my office.

I'm on my way to a very important business meeting.

It's crucial that I make it on time...

...

I don't want to take too much time...

I'd really rather not!

Huh?!

...

This was partly my fault.

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

I didn't run the light, but it's true I wasn't paying attention to traffic.

...

So I would prefer to settle it right now, privately...

Oh, come on! If he wants to pay, let him pay!

♪

...

ぽんぽん

PAT

PAT

Are...are you sure? You could be completely innocent, you know.

But I don't have a second to spare!

I...I know what you're saying, Officer.

ボコォ!!!

PDP

CLICK

ポチ

O...okay. If you insist...

Z!

...

Please!!

GRAB

BAH

You have no idea how much I'll lose if I'm late to this meeting!

M-man, the poor guy... He's white as a sheet and sweating bullets...

He must be under a lot of pressure...

SCRITCH SCRITCH

TUG TUG

くくく

HM?

TWITCH

ん

...

Sher- dog?

Wh-What's wrong,

TUG TUG

くくくく

Ugh, what is wrong with you, Sherdog?

ARF!

?!

...?

Ah...! Hey!

TMP

Ah! I-I'm sor—

What are you doing?!!

SLIP

POP

Hey!

TAP!

You can't go around touching other people's cars!

-ry...

PLOP

Uwaaaaaaaaaaah!!

Dad!!

There's a boy in the trunk! He's covered in blood!

What?!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Uh... uh...

Ergh...

...

I didn't Mean to run him over!!

Uwaaaaaah!!

So you were driving away with the body!!

GRAB

Eeek!

He just jumped out into the street!

SHOONK

I...I'M sorry... ...sniffle...

...

OOZE

Arf!

?!

HEF

HEF

HEF

Eh...?

TWITCH ピク!

Ngh...

...

Call an ambu-lance!!

What?! Really?!

Yeah!

!

BAH

Dad! He's still alive!!

...

SCRITCH SCRITCH

カシカシカシ

WEE OO

WEE OO

WEE OO

I'M home...

Welcome back, Takeru!

PATTER

Oooh♡

I ♥ POLICE

PATTER

PATTER

PATTER

Satoko Wajima
(46)
Housewife
(former policewoman)

Oh, what a funny name!

SULK

むすっ

His name's Sherdog.

y...yeah.

You got him from the shelter?

What a cute little puppy! ♡♡

ARF!

ワン!

!

TWITCH

ピクッ

フンフン

SNIFF SNIFF

Where are you going, Sherdogz!

Ah!

That's the living room! It's full of breakables...

You can't run around like that!

TMP

WHIRL

...z!

I KNOW HE WAS NAMED AFTER THAT DETECTIVE, BUT...

IT'S WEIRD, BUT HE LOOKS GOOD WITH THE PIPE.

STREEETCH

B-DMP...

ARF!

What a strange little dog...

Oh, My, is that the pipe your grandfather brought from England?

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

LIKE A VOICE IN MY HEAD OR SOMETHING. ...A-ANYWAY.

B-DMP...

B-DMP...

...NO, WAIT. COME THINK OF IT, IT *WAS* REALLY WEIRD THE WAY THAT NAME CAME TO ME.

Make sure to bring the pipe back, Takeru.

You're coming to my room, Sherdog.

STAMP STAMP STAMP

CLAMP

THERE'S SOME-THING...

...WEIRD ABOUT THIS LITTLE GUY.

LOOKING BACK...

AND THAT INCIDENT TODAY...

IT WAS ALL HIM!!

DUN

ARF!

?!

THAT SHOWED ME THE CUL-PRIT'S TRUNK!

HE'S THE ONE

AND THE ONE

WHO LET ME KNOW THE BOY WAS STILL BREATHING!

YOU—

Hey!!

BAM

Hello,
My dear
Watson.

...

...what?

Get a hold of yourself, Watson.

ゴン

KONK

The... the... the dog...

The—

Is t... talk- ing...

Why, you are, of course.

Who's Watson?!

I saw it on your bicycle.

Stop. Just listen to me.

DRAG すぅ

DRAG すぅる

H...help me! I'm losing my mind...!

DRAG すぅ

You have not lost your mind, Watson.

Your feet reek, however.

...NO, IT'S PRONOUNCED WAJIMA TAK- ERU!

Wa To Son

...WAIT A MINUTE...

The Chinese characters phonetically form the name Watson!

I may not look it, but I am fluent in six languages.

I see. It would appear that the pipe allows me to communicate with you.

This is my favorite pipe from my previous life, after all.

Why do I hear his voice in my head?!

I'm having a conversation with a dog!

How does that make any sense?!

So you, Watson, must be the reincarnation of Dr. Watson.

I attempted to speak to your mother a moment ago, but to no avail.

And apparently you are the only one who can hear me.

Dr. John H. Watson!!

FRIEND

ASSISTANT

DOCTOR

You are my dear friend,

My faithful assistant,

And the entirely unsuccessful Medical practitioner!!

And who's "Dr. Watson," anyway?

SIGH...

As I am trying to explain,

By explaining the deduction that led to my solving the events of this afternoon!

Allow me to prove myself,

I'd better go in for a head examination tomorrow...

...

Wait... Detective? Just what are you?

So pigheaded. And you call yourself a detective's assistant.

Very well.

SMIRK

!

It...it can't be...

GULP...

ｺﾞｸ?!

...

Wh...what is it?

I have a favor to ask you...

But first, Watson,

Plum Group #19
Takeru Wajima

How do you suppose

I knew that that Mild-mannered gentleman had committed a hit-and-run?

Thank you... Watson.

What a fascinating lighter.

Lighter

HE'S SMOKING A PIPE!!

THE DOG!!

Aaahh... I haven't been able to smoke this pipe in 100 years...

Now, as for the case.

PUFF

PUFF

A-AND HE ACTUALLY LOOKS GOOD DOING IT!!

I deduced it all with my powers of observation!

I would never rely on the physical abilities of a canine!

Some tact, if you please...

I...I'm sorry!

The first thing that aroused my suspicion

From being a dog!!

CLICK

With your great sense of smell!

And the manner in which it had been damaged.

Was the bumper of the fellow's car.

!

As well as another type of scratching.

There were the dents created by the motorcycle.

is distinctly higher than that of marks from a bicycle.

The position of the marks caused by a motorcycle

Elementary, my dear Watson.

Quite so! Scratches caused by a bicycle.

Another type?

Huh? How do you know?

Nice catch, Sherdog!

I bet you have an easy time seeing things low down because of your short legs!!

HMPH, TWITCH

CLICK

Furthermore, the paint left on the bumper was an entirely different color.

Ah!

That's right! The motorcycle was black...

...but the bicycle was blue!

...Is that all? Or is there more?

There is more.

I'M HIS OWNER! WHY AM I THE ONE BEING LEC-TURED?

S... Sorry.

And my name is Sherlock. Get it right!!

I wonder if your per-sonality was warped in the reincarnation process?

You never used to show such cheek.

BURN

GRAB

And yet he stubbornly insisted on settling the matter financially.

Yeah...but he said he had an important business meeting...

The fellow's behavior was suspect as well.

You found a witness to testify on his behalf,

Cool

Then don't you think he would have been wearing a necktie?

I have rarely seen such casual dress for an important business meeting!!

NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT...!!

!!

He was trying to hide it.

His shirt would have been covered in the boy's blood.

GRAB

Oh yeah! When Dad grabbed his collar...

FWOOM

S... sorry!!

Do you have any idea why?

And despite the heat of the day, he made no move to remove his jacket.

A cold!!

He had...

CLICK

Pay attention, Watson.

.....?
Uh...so?

He had left a golf bag in the passenger's seat.

In addition!

The gentleman was likely of a very nervous and methodical nature.

The car was polished to a shine.

The seats had pristine white covers on them.

Set his dirty golf bag in the passenger's seat!!

And yet he carelessly

Is clearly unnatural!!

Such behav-ior...

Leaving no room for his golf bag.

I believe, after he hit the boy,

He put him and his bicycle in the trunk,

And I opened the trunk for you to see. ...And there you have it.

Then I brought you around.

SLIP

SCRITCH

So I sneaked past him,

and infiltrated the car by way of the open window.

...

...Heh.

As you suspect, Watson.

...But, wow. I'm impressed.

So...you say you're a detective, and you keep calling me Watson...

Don't tell me...you...

Now do you see that I am no mere canine?

Ahem.

HMMM...

I saw that as soon as you started talking.

I am indeed the legendary detective,

Sherlock Holmes.

The very man!!

The pride of the British Empire, reborn into this world.

Um...you're not a "man."

...Seriously?

That was my fateful encounter with Sherdog.

Little did I know that this encounter would lead us into countless mysteries...

It wouldn't be long

...And that we would solve them all.

W-wow, Sher-dog...

What's that?! I ain't no Watson, Sherdog!!

That's Sherlock!! I see your memory hasn't improved, Watson!

My name is not Sherdog!

before we had our first case...

And...

SHERLOCK
BONES

GONG

GONG

GONG

Holmes...

SIZZLE

SIZZLE

SIZZLE

...

Do you suppose it was...

...murderz?!

SHERLOCK BONES

Case 1 ⚜ The 12:20 Witness, Part 1

WHIRL

レンズ

IT IS AS YOU SEE IT, WATSON.

A dogz!

!!

Uwaaa aahhz!

ガバ

JOLT

Where did all these papers come from?!!

RUSTLE

ばっさー

CLUTTER

...erk!!

Aaaahhhh!!

DU-DUN

しゃーん

Good Morning, Watson.

It... it was just a dream...

Huff, huff...

I took the liberty of reading them all, as a study of Modern society as well as the Japanese language.

Yes. I found the papers outside your front door.

And it's Sherlock!

Shut up

Did you Make this Mess, Sherdog?

...BUT IT'S NOT A DREAM.

IT WAS A DREAM...

GLOOM

I see your new life hasn't improved your sleeping habits.

F...front door...?

玄関?!

...

TAAAKEEERUUU!

ｚ!

They're... they're not the papers Mom was getting ready to toss...?

たーいーまー

Erkz!

I found what looks like...paw prints... near where I left them...

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

Your mother woke up early and worked all morning gathering up all our old newspapers... You haven't seen them... have you?

He went to my school.

...Yeah.

What?

Still...I see you can find deplorable occurrences in any age.

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

JUMP!

Aw, crap! Mom's really mad!

I've seen them, I've seen them! I'm picking them up right now!

TWITCH

...!

The victim in this article is about your age, Watson.

"Bullying Leads to Suicide. School Covers It Up"...

He was a first-year, so he was a year younger than me.

But I'm the only one who knows that.

Actually, he was my teacher's son.

KYAAAA!

キャ

?!

...

You could try listening to people, Sherdog...

...Hey, where'd you go?!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

No cooking!!

Oh, well, I was hungry, so I thought I'd cook up some ham and eggs.

And my name is Sher-lock...

ベっちょリ

SPLORCH

Waaaah?! What are you doing, Sherdog?!

KYAAAA!

?!

キャー

It's way too early in the Morning for Me to deal With all this.

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

Ugh... I don't care if he is the reincarnation of a famous detective.

Do that outside!!

Don't!!

STIIINK

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Eh?

Isn't it obvious?! Close the door, you savage!!

And the name is Sherlock...

SPLURT

SPLURT

Gaaaah!! What are you doing, Sherdog?!

What?! No... anything but that!!

If I left you at home, you'd be back at the animal shelter before school got out...

Man, MOM was really mad...

...Hey.

MURMUR

MURMUR

...

That's Sherlock. ...And there's not enough room!

Your tail's sticking out of my bag!! Hide it!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Hey!

...

Sher-dog.

Fine... Well, I guess if you just keep quiet, no one will find...

YANK

DRAIN...

M...

Miki...?

Good Morning, Takeru!!

SQUISH

QUISH むにむに

I never thought I'd see such a cute accessory on your bag.

...

Huh?

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

aKaNaaaaaaaaa!!

Hey, look at that.

クスクス

GIGGLE GIGGLE

GIGGLE

クス

GIGGLE

クス

みろよあれ

えぇ Whaa?

…

なんなのよー！もーっ

What have I done?!

…

…

DUN

Uh...um, Wajima-kun.

What is that dog doing there?

Karen Kikuchi
(38)

Takeru's homeroom and PE teacher

...Sher...

...

...This is Sh... Sh-Sh...Sher...

Y...yes, Kikuchi-sensei!

DUN

Surely you've heard of... those talking toy dogs...?

I...I'm sorry, Kikuchi-sensei... He just followed me...

I'm so stupid! There's no way I can lie about him all day!

お BLUSH お お!!

He is a cute little puppy! ♡

PET なでなで PET

Huh?

But...

ss ス!!!

...Oh really?

ちぱ

BLINK

Despite your youthful appearance, I can see that you are in your late thirties.

ARF

Wh... what?

ARF

Ooh!

ARF

And you are quite the beauty!

ARF

ARF

You are no doubt a former swimmer who now teaches physical education!!

ARF

TIGHT

ARF

Judging from the scent of chlorine permeating your skin and the firmness of your muscles...

BOM

ARF

ARF

Which tells me that you are a divorcée!

BAM!!

ARF

But a close inspection of your left ring finger reveals a slight constriction under the second knuckle.

ARF

You aren't wearing a wedding ring,

ARF

That...

...

...

How's that?

どや？

?

Note: All she hears is bark-ing.

Sensei!

I think you're going too easy on him!

わざわざ

MURMUR

Send him away? Like he's human?'

MURMUR

No, like his wife.

わざ

He doesn't even have a girl-friend.

But remember your math teacher, Ishikawa-sensei, hates dogs, so...

A...anyway, I don't mind having him here in homeroom.

THAT'S RIGHT...

He scares me...

DUN

Y-yes, ma'am!! I'll send him away!

Wha-?! That jerk.

なっ

PANIC

?

WAH

ヒュー

WOOHOO

I know you guys have kissed and everything, but come on! ♡

D...DAM-MIT...

That was artificial respiration! Wajima-kun nearly drowned!

WOOHOO

...

H-hey! Don't talk like that!!

GYA

HA

Oh come on, who drowns in a little 25M pool?!

I bet it was your first time, too!

He did it on purpose!

HA

HA

I'M NEVER GONNA LIVE THIS DOWN...

I can imagine the class reunion.

CLATTER

HA-

Sh-shut up...!

Stop it! All of you!!

...Ganging up on someone to make fun of their mistakes and flaws...

Isn't that how bullying starts?

HUSH...

Come on, guys...

...

...

Miki...

Did you already forget... that one of our first-years killed himself?

Kikuchi-sensei!

GASP

Huh...? Y-yes?

...That...

...

...

What...? But...

That's okay, Miki! It doesn't bother me.

CLATTER

あはははは

AH HA HA HA HA!

Kikuchi-sensei! Can I bring a cat?

Me too, Me too!

This guy needs to poop, so I'm gonna go tie him up outside!

I could let him do it on your head! Heh heh heh.

Erk!

ARF?!

What?!

W... Wait, Takeru?

ZOOM

ぴゃ

BOW WOW!

The nerve!! I would never defecate outdoors...

...

SQUEEZE

This morning... you said the boy who killed himself was your teacher's son.

Watson.

I have Math first period, English second period.

Then I have social studies, and after that I'M going to the pool for PE.

When that's done, I'll come back to give you some lunch, so you be a good dog and wait here.

...

You were referring to Karen Kikuchi, were you not?

...

Yeah... But I'M the only one in class who knows that.

That's why I freaked out earlier.

She said she saved you from drowning.

Sen... sei...?

COUGH

!!

Kikuchi-sensei was the first person to notice I was drowning...

Wajima-kun, stay with us!

Wajima-kun!

Next thing I knew, I was unconscious. Ah ha ha...

Yeah... I can't swim, but I jumped in anyway. Trying to show off.

...

Σ"

DUN

Waaaah! Thank goodness you're alive!

She's a good teacher.

She really cares about her students.

But then...

Bullying Leads to Suicide. School Covers It Up.

...

ぎく、

GULP

What are you muttering to yourself about, Takeru?

You're going to leave the little puppy here? Will he be okay?

I'm sorry I pulled your tail!

WHIMPER...

ひょい

YOINK

M...Miki...

Yo!

What...what else can I do?

If I take him home, he'll be back at the shelter in no time.

Pleased to meet you. I'M Miki Arisaka. ♡

He's so cute!! Is this the new family member you were talking about?

WHINE WHINE

Oh, a hello kiss? Well then...

She doesn't understand you!

ARF ARF

The pleasure is mine. I am Sherlock Holmes!

...!!

What's your name, Puppy? Mmmwah!

...

How long until then...?

He has four classes.

Dogs do not have good eyesight.

So I must wait here until the clock chimes eight times...

SNATCH

Class is starting, Miki.

TCH...

PLOP

See you at lunch, Sherdog!

...That's Sher-lock.

His name is Sherdog?

GULP

Ah, love.

Just— just shut up!

BAH

And unre-quited, I see.

Sigh...

My pipe...

...

Okay, everyone!

DONG

DANG

DONG

DING

TICK

SHAKE

SHAKE

DING

That's the bell!

DANG

What? Over already?

Time ies when you're in the pool.

DONG

Do your stretches and get changed!

DONG

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

Hey! Hurry up, or we'll miss our lunch!!

ONE TWO THREE FOUR!

オイッチニッ サンシッ

But mean-while...

That Sherdog... I hope he's not getting himself into trouble.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
STAMP!
I must use the facilities!!
NOOOOO!
Sherdog was about to witness...
My dignity as a gentleman is at stake!
There are five minutes until his fourth period swimming lets out!
But I can't wait that long...!
DASH
...a terrible crime.
FIDGET
FIDGET
PACE
PACE
TICK

Oh!

HEF

HEF

HEF

Argh! Where is the lavatory?!

An English gentleman does not do his business outdoors!

ちゃっ ちゃっ ちゃっ SCAMPER

SCAMPER

WINCE

ZSH

!!

Here we are...

Aah, relief...

SCAMPER

SCAMPER

So who would be here...?

Class...should still be in session.

...

キュ…

SQUEAK

...

TODDLE

Hm?

But I thought she was teaching a swimming class...

That's Takeru's teacher.

TODDLE

TODDLE

WINCE

...

!?!

...

SMILE

I sensed extreme malice.

What was that...?

And...

BAM

I smelled blood!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TEP

TEP

TEP

DRIP

Th...

This...

This cannot be...

DDNG

Announcing the beginning of a mystery to be solved.

The chime rang at the end of class,

DING

DANG

Wha–?!!

Killed him?!

The woman teacher

DING

DDNG

DDNG

DANG

Sherlock Bones

SHERLOCK
BONES

SHERLOCK BONES

This is Sherdog,

just an ordinary dog I picked up from the shelter...

of the legendary super sleuth, Sherlock Holmes(?!).

And...

When Sherdog puts it in his mouth, he can speak human...to me, at least.

I'm Takeru Wajima.

I'm a second year at London Academy High School.

...or so I thought. But he's actually the reincarnation

If you want proof, there's the pipe that used to belong to Holmes.

Case 1 ♣ The 12:20 Witness, Part 2

One day, unbeknownst to me,

DING

DANG

DONG

GASP

he witnessed a terrible crime.

It...it can't be...

Wha–?

DONG

The woman teacher...

killed him?!!

Takeru's homeroom and PE teacher

Karen Kikuchi

...is still fresh.

SNIFF SNIFF

The blood...

But this was no suicide.

A single stab to the heart.

The malice I felt... That wasn't the bearing of a woman who had come across a student's suicide.

It was Takeru's homeroom teacher... Karen Kikuchi. Of that I have no doubt.

A knife in his right hand...

I know the power is on.

I can't see the screen.

CLICK

CLICK

ポチ ポチ

タカタカ

TAPPA

TAPPA

...And it was during my secret investigation of the phone that I ended up sending pictures of his mistress to his wife.

GLOOM

At which point I was sent to the pound...

TILT

Oho? He has one of those "mobile phones."

My previous owner had one as well.

A device that not only serves as a phone, but can also send text messages and photographs.

Looking closely, I can see there's some sort of a film over the screen to maintain privacy.

I see. So the angle is key... It's set up so one can only view the display from directly in front of it.

Come to think of it, I think my past owner used one, too. Not that it did him any good.

There...

CLICK

CLICK

Why would he take a picture of the clock tower?

Was it taken...from here?

Was...

Was...

HOP

HOP

ぴょーん

ぴょーん

This photo-graph...

Goodbye.

画像

!

There's a message above the picture.

Cc Irie, Kazuto
Cc Ohashi, Tamayuki
Cc Kato, Kenta
Cc Takakura, Kennosuke
Cc Takasaki, Taro
Cc Toki, Sominori
Cc Nakata, Hoshi
Cc Nakamura, Kimihiko
Cc Miyamoto, Seiji
Cc Yamaguchi, Koji
Cc Yamaguchi, Seiji
件 Phone: No subject

Its my fault mamoru jumped from the clock tower.

It's been sent to quite a number of people.

It says he's following the footsteps of the youth who jumped off the tower...

No subject

Its my fault mamoru jumped from the clock tower. I decided to pay for my crime. Goodbye.

画像 Image

A suicide note?!

Is this...

This is rather improbable!!

As I suspected...

I found him...

DANG

DONG

DING

...at 12:20!!

...are set to 12:19!!

The hands on the clock in the photo...

And he was already dead at the time!

This text message was sent by the murderer, to create an alibi!!

To take a picture and send it to multiple recipients...

...stab himself with a knife...

...and expire all in one minute? Hardly likely.

Teacher, Karen Kikuchi!!

SMIRK

But you were unfortu-nate.

Why? Because the scene of your crime has been expertly observed...

...by none other than the world-famous detective, **Sherlock Holmes!!**

Why me?!

What's with this dumb dog?! Get lost! You're in the way!!

キャイーン

WHIMPER

BONK

ドガ

ARF

ARF

ARF

ARF

Don't ruin the crime scene! Leave everything to me, the world-famous detective...

Stop! Keep your wits about you, gentlemen!!

Sensei!! Sens-eeeii!!

Aaaahhh!! He's dead!!

!

For real?

They say it was a suicide.

...

That first-year that killed himself...

He sent a suicide text to, like, everyone.

What?! Ushimaru? No way!

Hey! Get back to class!

Wow, I guess it really was bothering him...You know.

No, it's true! He really sent a text to all his contacts!

...Miki.

Takeru...

This is so scary.

...I didn't get a text...

No new messages

SNAP

Did you get the suicide text from Ushimaru?

What? No...

...at our school...

Another suicide...

Sherdog!!

...Erk, what are you doing?

CHOMP

WHOOSH

LEAP

I think Mayumi in Class C got one.

She's in his class.

Could you ask her to forward it to me?

SCAMPER SCAMPER

So you didn't get one either. ...I wonder why that is.

Do you know anybody who did get it?

!!

This was a murder.

Watson! Come With Me!

And I know who did it!!

I mean, he died during fourth period. She was with us at the pool the whole time.

I mean until the bell rang.

K...

Kikuchi-sensei...?

Yes.

N...no. She couldn't have.

What are you muttering to yourself, Takeru?

I was there! You can't expect me to believe this!!

What?!

ぎく、

GULP

With your own dog eyes!!

But I saw her with my own eyes!!

Airin-nēchan!!

Yo.

Who'd have thought I'd end up at your school on an investigation?

Airin Wajima (24)

Takeru's sister
Detective, Violent Crimes Division

Irene?!

A...
Ai...I...

Holmes Trivia

~Irene Adler~

A former opera singer who appeared in the Holmes series. She is one of the few to have defeated the famous detective. To Holmes, Irene is *the* woman. There are theories that he had feelings for her.

I got him yesterday. His name is Sherdog.

Oh. That means...

ドキ"

B-DMP

Oh, he's my new dog.

I had to bring him to school. It's a long story.

HM?

What's with the puppy?

B-DMP

...

B-DMP

...Sis.

B-DMP

FWAH

He's the newest member of our family.

PET PET

なでなで

Nice to meet you, Sherdog.

Airin-nēchan...

! She's a detec-tive...?

...does that mean it could have been a murder?

You investigate violent crimes. If you're here...

There's something I want to talk to you about.

About that.

Still, the report says he sent out a suicide text.

So that seems like a more likely scenario...

Well, you know. When they find a bloody body in a bathroom...

...

He was the kind of guy who did his work and tried not to make any waves.

Sometimes, when it was just the two of us at club, he'd let something slip. That's how I found out.

What...? So... you're saying...

The first boy who killed himself was on the school newspaper with you?

Yeah. His name was Mamoru Ayase...

Why didn't the school or his parents do something?

He didn't want anyone to know. He had his reasons.

That's awful... Who would do such a thing?!

And make him eat bugs and lizards.

He'd punch him in the stomach so no one would see the bruises.

Apparently Ushimaru would call him out every day to torture him.

Or send embarrassing pictures of him to all his friends.

Had his reasons...?

...

I...was in Ushimaru's class last year. I know what he was like.

He wasn't the type to ever feel guilty enough to kill himself.

...

Don't tell me you think...?

Yeah.

WINCE

ビク

What are you up to, Wajima-kun?

ZSH

B-DMP

ドキン

B-DMP

ドキン

K... Kikuchi-sensei...

SMILE

ニコ

Pardon my asking, but who is this?

This was a murder.

I appreciate all you do for my brother, Kikuchi-sensei!

I'm Wajima. I'm a detective in the violent crimes division.

55

警部
Police Inspector
輪島 愛鈴
Wajima Airin

POLICE

Pleased to meet you.

...what...?

57

WINCE

...Then...

I...I see.

So I was asking my brother for details about the case.

UM...

...Yes. Uh...

This officer... is your sister, Wajima-kun?

Hey, Takeru! Why didn't you tell me?!

I knew the student in this case was a bully. His victim was your son?

Eh?!

I suppose he's already told you.

That Mamoru Ayase was my son...

That's why our last names are different, and why none of the other students knew.

I divorced my husband before I started teaching at this school.

But yes, Mamoru Ayase was my son.

...

SCRITCH SCRITCH

You... didn't tell her.

Wajima-kun...

I am a teacher, after all.

But that doesn't mean that I'm happy about what happened to Ushimaru-kun.

Would you mind answering some questions for me, Kikuchi-sensei?

No, of course not.

I'll show you to the reception room.

...

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

Dangit, Sherdog, what was that for?!

Owwwww!!

K... Kikuchi-sensei, did you...

CHOMP

UM...I'd like ask you straight out.

Kikuchi-sensei...

What is it, Wajima-kun?

I know he's my little brother, but I really wish he'd grow up.

...

Honestly... Does he ever sit still...?

Come back here you little mutt!

DASH

Don't you run from me! Stop!

She would just laugh it off! Then she would raise her defenses, and we wouldn't be able to investigate!

W-Well, I thought that if anyone would give me an honest answer, it would be her.

Why would you ask her that?!

Kikuchi-sensei, did you kill Ushimaru?"

BARK

BARK

BARK

How stupid can you be, Watson?!

But I saw her!

She is the mur-derer!!

She must have used some sort of a trick to create her alibi!

Precisely!

We have no proof!

And if what you say is true...

Then Karen Kikuchi was teaching you how to swim.

At the end of fourth period, when the murder was committed,

If all the students can attest to that, then she has a perfect alibi.

T... trick...?

We shall have to expose her trick, Watson!

And force Karen Kikuchi to confess!!

ニヤリッ
SMIRK
But... how?
オレも？
YOU MEAN ME, TOO?
ふたり
"WE"?
Are you serious?
Are...
You know what they say, Watson.
Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

...

Reception Room

Oh, no need to thank me.

Thank you for your cooperation, Kikuchi-sensei.

Well, if you'll excuse me.

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

Hi

WINCE

Kikuchi-sensei.

Wajima... kun...?

Will you come to a classroom with me?

First, Kikuchi-sensei,

If you're here to apologize, I forgive you. Now go on home.

Hee hee. I'M kidding.

S... sorry...

Uh...no.

So you were being interrogated?

By your sister, no less.

We weren't going to our room?

No, ma'am.

Isn't this Class B's room?

Oh?

2-B

I hope you have a good reason for telling me to bring her here.

Don't let me down, Sherdog.

This is Ushimaru's class.

...

Watson...

クゥ—

WHIMPER...

—ン..

...That's odd.

The police took all his stuff into evidence, duh!!

BAH

レオン

PSST

PSST

Wha—?! Y-you dumb dog!!

What happened to "nothing ventured"?

What?

I was positive I would find some form of evidence in his belongings...

Young Ushimaru's effects are gone!

Who're you calling your as-sistant?!

Wajima-kun?

PSST

PSST

PSST

As my assistant, it was your job to anticipate my needs and keep some evidence here!

CLANG

B-DMP

It's not that...

N... no...

!

WINCE

What's going on, Wajima-kun? Are you playing a little detective game?

Trying to be like your big sister?

B-DMP

You shouldn't talk like that, Wajima-kun.

...

B-DMP

B-DMP

It's just that I was in his class last year.

And I just can't believe that Ushimaru... would kill himself.

HITHER THITHER HITHER THITHER HITHER THITHER

TO FRO TO FRO TO FRO TO FRO

S...Sorry.

Ushimaru-kun passed away during fourth period class.

PAT

ぽい！

Besides.

B-DMP

ドクン！

And it was Ushimaru-kun.

B-DMP

ドクン！

There was only one student reported to have slipped out of class.

I feel responsible for all the second years, so I asked all the teachers.

ドクン！

B-DMP

Arf!

And none of the security guards saw anyone suspicious.

The security cameras didn't catch anyone coming in.

ドクン！

B-DMP

B...but...

B-DMP

ドクン！

ドクン！

B-DMP

B...but.

Maybe it was someone from outside the school...

HUFF

HUFF

?!

Sherdog!
That's—!

TATSUYA.

TATSUYA

TATSUYA XX Store
XX/XX/XX (X)
TEL XXX-XXX-XXXX

Transaction Receipt
On Business Day
XX/XX/20XX

Membership No. XXX-XXX-XXXX

As I expected, there's something amiss!

Look at this, Kikuchi-sensei.

There's always something worth finding!

?!

...

ARF

They left it in Ushimaru's desk!!

A Tatsuya DVD rental! Good work!

But then he killed himself? That's weird...

...

He must have brought it to school so he could return it on his way home.

It's due back today...

...Yes, ma'am.

Will you help me... Sensei?

It just doesn't add up.

to keep up this detective act, aren't you?

7

HEH

You're really determined

So? What do you want me to do?

...All right.

?!

ARF!

GLANCE

UM, Well...

that this was where Ushimaru came to smoke during fourth period every Wednesday.

No one wanted to even before the suicide. ...Everyone knew,

...

But either way, we won't find anything here.

...Was it? I didn't know that.

But I doubt anyone will want to use this bathroom for a while...

They really cleaned this place up.

The game is afoot, Watson!!

ワン!

ARF!

Yeah...

I know, Sher-dog!!

How so?

...

...is proof that Ushimaru didn't kill himself.

This suicide message...

RATTLE

カラカラ

RATTLE

I wouldn't say that.

Kikuchi-sensei.

SNAP

ピッ

Do you notice anything?

...

The clock tower that you can see through here.

スッ

SS

Look here.

Tell me how you know?

I'd be impressed if you were right.

Certainly.

Right. ...The time would have been 12:19. ...Is that what we're looking at?

From right here... before he killed himself... and...

Ushimaru-kun...Must have taken this picture

Not only that.

...Huh?

Ushimaru was 185cm* tall.

*About 6'1"

The prob-lem...

is the windowsill here at the bottom of the picture!

Don't you think the angle is a little low coming from someone his size?

...

スゥ

sss...

...

Are you sure about that?

You don't have to look through the lens to take a picture with a phone.

He could have held it down low, like this, to take the picture.

ス！

ss...

B-DMP!

Z!

Have you ever heard of a privacy filter?

It makes it so you can only see the phone display from directly in front of it.

No.

!!

you still don't see the lower windowsill.

*About 5'7"

I'm only 170cm*, and if I take the same picture,

...Had one, too.

Ushi-Maru's phone...

TILT

DEEP BREATH...

And have it look exactly like that...

So to take that picture

ME NU

Or it would be unnatural.

Your eye level would have to be about here.

Kikuchi-sensei.

...

Don't you agree?

ZSHHHH...

I don't know.

I...

Wajima-kun.

I don't know what a boy's feelings are

before he kills himself.

I didn't know how my son felt when he killed himself, either...

PAT

Okay...

You go on home now.

...

STEP

STEP

...

...

There's no doubt about it! Sherdog was right...

Kikuchi-sensei killed Jōya Ushimaru!!

Watson...

I see. You believed in her to the last...

GH

So...

...it's true...?

Kikuchi-sensei...

SHERLOCK
BONES

A second-year at London Academy High School.

I'm Takeru Wajima.

SHERLOCK BONES

I was just an average high school student until I brought my new dog Sherdog home from the shelter.

Believe it or not, the dog is the reincarnation of the legendary detective, Sherlock Holmes!!

And there's an old pipe that he says belonged to Holmes.

When he puts it in his mouth, he can communicate with human speech!

I barely had time to get over the shock, when,

before I knew it,

Sherdog witnessed a terrible crime...

Case 1 ⚜ The 12:20 Witness, Part 3

SHE MURDERED JŌYA USHIMARU!!

SHERDOG WAS RIGHT.

KIKUCHI-SENSEI IS THE KILLER!!

WAS SHER-DOG.

AND NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE TESTIMONY FROM A DOG.

THE ONLY ONE TO SEE KIKUCHI-SENSEI COME OUT OF THE BATHROOM...

But...

GLANCE

SOME WAY TO GET HER TO CONFESS!!

...

SO I HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY...

Z!

Don't tell Me you think I did it?

GULP

What's the matter? Why do you look so serious?

Wajima-kun.

I-I just wanted you to help Me work it all out!

Of...of course I don't!

Ushimaru-kun took that picture and sent it to all those students...

Well, a okay... But just so you know.

...Hmm?

SNAP

At 12:19, remember?

The clock hands in the picture are pointing to 12:19.

Y...yes, Ma'am.

If you really want to play detective...

SS

But I was at the pool until class ended at 12:20.

Y...yes, Ma'am.

Teaching your class.

...

Then my alibi is sound.

Now go home, Mr. Super Sleuth.

...Hey, Sherdog.

That's Sherlock.

ああ そーでした。

Yeah. Right.

Do you think... Maybe... Kikuchi-sensei is innocent? She does have an alibi...

...

SIIIP

What?!

R...right now?

Let's go have a look at that pool.

STRAWBERRY

WARINASA

LONDON

Yes, sir. So I'd like to borrow the keys...

Let's see, it's...17:20.

Yeah, that's fine.

Security

You left some-thing at the pool?

? What about it?

ARF ARF

Look, Watson! See when our dear Miss Kikuchi returned the keys.

16:30 Karen Kikuchi 7:20

Uh, yes, sir...

Now just write your name and grade here.

HM?

The last person to have the keys was Karen Kikuchi...

...

ARF

Don't you see? It means...

ARF

Oh! I get it!!

This is the faculty prep room. Why are we here?

There might be a switch for the school bell.

TROT TROT

ててて

The bell?

...

Come on, Sherdog! The pool's this way!

←Pool Building

Z!

No way!

Yes. If, for example, it were possible for her to ring the bell five minutes early,

Then she could commit the murder without anyone noticing.

Furthermore, the restroom where the murder was committed

is close enough that she could run there in a minute or less.

The school pool is in a separate building from the classrooms.

She could have ended class early without the other students' knowledge.

...B-but...

If she had five minutes, I believe the murder would have been quite possible.

How about this as a possibil-ity?

MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE

ゴニョゴニョ

!

A Microphone. To make announcements to the pool building...

What's that?

...

...I see.

But she couldn't ring it at the wrong time.

But, it still doesn't work! She might be able to turn the bell off with a switch,

GLANCE

チョロチョロ

GLANCE

Hmmm... Quite so...

People wouldn't look at the time from the pool.

Yeah. And we do have some-one collect all the phones and watches and put them in a locker.

That *would* get her around the time difference...!!

I...I get it...

But...

Oh!

Then let me ask you this: did you get the text message from Ushimaru?

Huh...? Er, now that you mention it...

If everyone's phone went off at the same time, the kid collecting them would definitely notice.

There's still the text from Ushimaru!

The one from 12:19.

If everyone's out of class five minutes early, they'd get it while they were changing.

RING
ALING
RING
ALING
RING
Valuables

HMM... Then perhaps...

I *didn't* get it!

He should know my number...

No one in your class received the message.

That would ensure...

...That Karen Kikuchi's time trick would work.

...But...

...

...

But she just couldn't have, Sherdog.

What?

We could have checked the time... The pool building...

...has huge wall clocks.

And by the pool. ...See?

SLIP

SHOWER

See?

In the locker room.

...

With two gigantic clocks like these.

If they were both five minutes off,

I'm pretty sure someone would notice when they came into the building or when they left.

...No. Quite the opposite.

Huh?

Z!

LEAP!

I know how the murderer created the time difference!!

BAH

That's how she did it! I have it!!

She overcame the five minute hurdle

by dividing it up!!

TMP

the hurdle ...?

She divided

Precisely so! You see...

10

PAH

What are you doing here?

?!

Kikuchi-sensei!!

K...

Watson... you know what to do.

It's up to you now!

Uh, no, um...

You are incorrigible. ...Are you still playing your little detective game?

I will get you off of campus by force if I have to.

グイ…

TUG

スタ STEP

スタ STEP

Arf arf!

Sensei.

I have a question!

...YEAH! I KNOW.

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SHERDOG!!

16:25
16:30
SHOJI TAKAHASHI
ICHIRO YAMADA
KAREN KIKUCHI
So why were you walking around with the pool keys until 4:30?
No one was supposed to be here after 12:20...
I thought fourth period was the last pool class.
TWITCH
...What is it?
You forgot this clunky pile of keys?
Locker Room (Girls)
Locker Room (Boys)
Pool
Security Room
Building Door
RATTLE
Are you referring to the checkout sheet in the security room? ...I forgot to return them.
I had them in my sweat-pants pocket.
Did you forget to return them every day for a whole month?
Why would you keep them every day...for the last month?
...!
All the records before that say you returned them right after the last class.
About a month ago, you suddenly started returning the keys at 4:30.

...happened during swim class.

THMP

As I've told you several times, Ushimaru-kun's suicide...

...Wajima-kun.

16:30

Karen Kikuchi 菊池花

she came back to set the clocks back to the right time!!

And today...

rehearsing the murder!

...

She kept them... because she was...

What?

ended, say, five minutes early?

And what if that class

That person could use those extra five minutes to kill Ushimaru...

If that person were at the pool for fourth period!

What if someone set the clock ahead five minutes,

and made the bell ring five minutes early to match it?

They wouldn't have to make the bell ring early.

...Impossible. The bell rings from the main building.

No one could make it ring early for just the pool...

First, the culprit would turn off the bell in the pool building.

Then instead, they would use the microphone in the prep room

To play a pre-recorded school bell on a timer.

They would just have to turn it off.

But the bell isn't the only problem.

...

So the bell from the other building would be completely inaudible.

The pool building is sealed tight. All the sound inside it echoes pretty loudly.

If he did that, then someone entering or leaving the building would notice.

There are big clocks here and in the locker rooms.

The killer would have to set them five minutes ahead of everywhere else.

And if someone noticed the difference, then no more alibi.

True...

Five minutes is a pretty big difference.

HMM... Well...

...

Maybe in five, but...

Maybe no one would notice.

But no one could have committed that murder in two or three minutes.

See? So...

But if it were two or three minutes?

Right. That's why the killer

And split them up.

Took those five minutes

Basically, it goes like this.

?!

First, the killer sets the locker room clocks just three minutes ahead.

Actual time

Locker Room Time

3 min.

Hurry and change!

The kids coming in don't have their cell phones or watches,

So they wouldn't notice a little three minute difference.

Then, the clock by the pool would be two minutes ahead of the clocks in the locker rooms.

Actual time

Locker Room

2 min.

3 min.

Pool

Stretch! One, two!

When the students come in from the locker rooms,

Naturally, they won't notice a tiny difference of two minutes.

And, not realizing that class had ended five minutes early,

So we started class five minutes earlier than everyone outside.

Minutes ahead of actual time

TOTAL +5

--2

(fall back two minutes)

With that little cushion, we didn't think twice about the time difference.

Now we do the same thing in reverse.

Minutes ahead of actual time

TOTAL +3

--3

(fall back three minutes)

Without ever noticing that anything was off.

We came back to normal time,

Minutes ahead of actual time

TOTAL +0

That's how the killer created an empty bubble of five minutes.

That's how he killed Jōya Ushimaru.

...I see.

If this is how the murderer did it, then they had the bell set up on a timer in the prep room.

Did did you see it?

Huh?

I went to the prep room right after class...

Did you see anything?

...But I still don't quite understand.

You can do it!

You didn't? Why not?

I just remembered... I didn't really go to the prep room...

...

Corner her!

That's it, Watson.

WELL, YOU SEE...

Sen—

!!

GRAB

B-DMP

Careful, careful...You don't want to fall in.

You can't swim, Wajima-kun...

B-DMP

B-DMP

...th... thanks.

B-DMP

All right.

Let's go home now.

PAT

I almost forgot.

Huh?

Oh.

That's right.

Ah ha ha... What is it?

The reason I wasn't in the prep room.

She's taken complete control of the situation.

CLAP

Sh...shut up! And I'm not your assistant!

GRRRR!

...Pull yourself together, man! You're a famous detective's assistant! You can't let a little threat cow you!

...

Oh, right! You were so graceful! Ha ha ha. Like a mermaid.

You remember. During fourth period, I was showing you how to do the crawl.

S-Sensei...

Wajima

ざわ!

MURMUR...!

!

ZSH

Whew.

Did you get that, my little non-swimmers?

And...

TMP

Ugh! My cap must have been loose... Now my hair's all wet!

どっかおとしちゃったー

I dropped it somewhere!

It must be a real pain to dry when it's that long, huh, Sensei?

BLUSH

You're really sexy with wet hair... ♡

That's not what you were supposed to be looking at!

H...hey!

I didn't have time to go to the prep room.

...

So it takes a lot of time to dry.

When your swim cap comes off, your hair gets wet all the way to the roots.

We can ask them if Kikuchi-sensei's hair was wet at lunch.

Or would you like to ask the teachers in the faculty room?

I would have used it all up drying my hair.

So even if I did make a five or six minute gap like you say I did,

So I think you'll have no trouble getting testimony.

Well? Don't you think that counts as an alibi?

Hair that wet is sure to have been noticed.

Now let's go home.

Whew, I'm so glad we've cleared my name.

I...I guess it does...

...

ARF ARF!

ばっ

BAH

What?

Sh-Sherdog! What's gotten into you?!

You're acting like a dog!

11°

9

PATTER

LONDON

Are you sure Kikuchi-sensei is guilty?

H-HEY. SHER-DOG.

...Arf.

Waah?!

BAM!

RRRRAAAAGH!

STAMP STAMP STAMP

I don't know! He took my shoe! Come back here!

Wh... what's wrong, Wajima-kun?

Sherdog! What are you doing?!

May... Maybe I was imagining it all...

You little–!

WHIM-PER WHIM-PER!

PATTER

PATTER

...Huh?

GLANCE

WHIM-PER...

...

I...I think he has reason to be angry...

BAM

BAM

BAM

Just because I forgot to feed him for a day!

This stupid dog! He threw MY shoe down the garbage chute!

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

Aaaaaaahhh!

TEP

TEP

Wh-what's wrong, Wajima-kun?

UM, I hate to ask, but if you don't mind...

It should be in the dumpster down-stairs...

Eh heh...

I'll just have to come early tomorrow to rummage through the trash...

What?! Rummage through the trash...?

Sigh... Fine. It's too dark today.

GLOOM

ゲルルルル

ドヨドヨ

STAGGER STAGGER

Well... Goodbye, Kikuchi-sensei...

Huh? ...Sure...

Pool
Security room
Pool
Building Door

RATTLE...

It's hard to walk around in just one shoe...

Sorry...

Would you take these keys back to the security room?

MUTTER

...IT'S OKAY.

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

IT'S NOT A PROB-LEM...

THE GAR-BAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN...

MUTTER

...

KNOCK KNOCK

Security Room

Mr. Security Guard, I have the keys...

WHAT? OF ALL THE...

...

No one told me anything about the afternoon garbage truck getting in an accident!

TWITCH

So you won't be collecting till two days from now? HMMM...

That's gonna smell... Especially since it's summer...

...So they haven't collected today's trash. Aw, man...

...

...Well, I'll ask about it...

Yes... Yes...

GH

VROOM...

SHUT

KREE

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

CREAK

!

Here it is...

What are you doing there?

FLASH

WINCE

!!

Kikuchi-sensei?

Wajima...

...kun...

I collected them all.

Or any of the other things with blood and fingerprints on them.

SS

You won't find your wig in there.

You saved my life...

Sensei...

...that I wouldn't see you here.

I prayed...

I wanted to believe it wasn't you...

All this time...

Kikuchi-sensei!!

Please turn yourself in!

...

Case 1 ⚜ The 12:20 Witness, Part 4

Kikuchi-sensei!!

...

Please turn yourself in!

SHERLOCK BONES

Do it...

You can do it, Watson...

It's time for the coup de grâce!!

...for her sake!!

you wore during fourth period swim class, isn't it?

...This is the wig

TWITCH TWITCH

ス...

You wanted everyone to see you had wet hair.

Earlier today...

was wrapped up tight inside a waterproof rubber swim cap!!

But that wet hair was a wig. Your real hair...

...

But in reality...

As soon as class was over, you disappeared to where your students couldn't see you...

So that you could dry your hair. ...Or that's what you wanted us to think, for your alibi.

You went to the prep room, where you quickly removed the wig...

You only *pretended* to go dry your hair.

RUSTLE

GRAB

FWOOSH

and made your way to the second floor restroom in the main school building.

Changed your clothes

Be-cause...

DASH

Jōya Ushimaru.

You knew he'd be there. He was always there smoking on Wednesdays at fourth period.

LONDON

WHAM

...

...

After you killed him...

...took the picture of the clock tower...

CLICK

...typed out the suicide note on Ushimaru's phone, just like you'd practiced...

Message sent

...and sent it to all his contacts in the school.

...You put the knife in his hand...

GH

HUFF...

STAGGER

HUFF...

RUSTLE...

HUFF...

HUFF...

HUFF...

TUG

TUG

HUFF...

HUFF...

CLATTER

TWITCH

TEP

TEP

to the singular sight of that moment.

...And that brings us...

Then...

...

You took all the evidence—the blood-covered vinyl coat, the wig—

and threw it down the garbage chute.

and take everything away. Or it was supposed to.

The garbage truck would come within two hours,

...

Yes.

SHRR

...Am I right?

Kikuchi-sensei!

the garbage collectors didn't come.

But unfortunately,

...has fallen into your hands.

All the evidence with My fingerprints and Ushimaru's blood...

...I had no idea you were such a smart kid, Wajima-kun.

...

I'M not...

SLUMP

I never have any luck...

Hon-estly...

Wajima-kun.

Remember when you ran into Mamoru and me at that restau-rant...?

I WON'T! BUT I DON'T THINK AGE SHOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH TRUE LOVE...

I'M SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT TELL ANYONE?

I'M HIS MOTHER!

GIGGLE

BZZZT! OH, YOU! WE'RE NOT LOVERS, SILLY!

GIGGLE

I think I understand why you killed Ushimaru... But...

...Yes. That's why...

It was about three months ago...

Ma-moru...

...came to me for advice.

You don't under-stand.

You don't under-stand any-thing...

Sen-sei...!

What...?

Mom... I...

I smoked a cigarette...

Then he threatened me...and made me smoke, too...

One of the older students was smoking in the bathroom...I ran into him on my way back from the nurse's office...

Wh...why would you...?

...

Am I...am I gonna be expelled...?

B-but I know that's no excuse... I'm sorry...

If he threatened you, then you didn't do it of your own free will, right?

RUFFLE

Silly boy.

I...can't tell you...!

...!

RATTLE RATTLE

I...I can't tell you...

So who was it? Who made you smoke?

...!

TWITCH

...

Then...

I looked at the Medical office records to find out when Mamoru would have been smoking.

It was Jōya Ushimaru.

I discovered one student who would always be counted on to skip class at just that time.

I ambushed him in the bathroom.

I caught him in the act of smoking.

I made him write an apology, promising he would never smoke again.

Of course, I never told him that I had heard anything from Mamoru.

GH

In exchange, I promised to settle the matter quietly, and not tell the administration...

But Ushimaru was convinced that Mamoru had sold him out...

and Mamoru became the target of that vicious bullying!!

I had...

I had no idea...!!

...

...When it happened ...

I...was teaching class. I had no idea...

that my son had killed himself...

And...

Mamoru...

After school that day,

I hid in a deserted bathroom in the corner of the old school building...

and took a call from my ex-husband—he had custody of Mamoru.

You're his mother! How could you let this happen!!

I'm sorry...

But...I don't know why, either...

...

Why did you do it... Mamoru...?

Why...

YOU COULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE!

HEY! THERE'S STILL COPS HANGING AROUND, USHIMARU-KUN!!

?

That's Ushimaru-kun's voice...

Don't be stupid.

Why would I be in trouble?

W...well, the cops might ask you questions.

Let's just stop smoking here for a while, okay?!

We should lay low!

We all really bullied the crap out of that Ayase kid. Especially you.

...!!

...Whaaa? Why should I...?

Seriously, who kills themselves?

Over a little bullying...

Huh ...?

...Bullied? Mamoru...?

He wasn't gonna live long anyway.

A wuss like that...

Come on, he was always just a pansy.

...I don't get why anyone would kill himself...

What a pain in the ass.

I really don't get it!

If it's that bad, why doesn't he come at me with a bat or something?!

I'd just beat the crap out of 'im though. Wa ha ha!

Seriously.

That's when my tears of grief...

...changed to tears of rage.

...Kikuchi-sensei...

...I...

...

...Hey. I heard a rumor that Ushimaru and his gang are bullying you...

Is it true?

...

Wajima-sempai...

...Oh.

NOT TOO LONG BEFORE MAMORU DIED...

Whoops...

CLATTER

CLATTER

Hey, you okay?

I-I'm fine! Ha ha...

...

Have you been seeing Sensei?

Uh...no. She's been busy...

S-Sempai... um...

...

She'd get really worried...

Please...don't say anything about that rumor...to my mother.

Hm?

I know!

She does tend to worry...

...Oh. Well... If you say so...

...!

She's really...a warm person, you know?

...If I had just told you...

I'm sure. That one was for me...

What? Are you sure?

Sempai, here. You can have this.

That Mamoru... was being bullied...

Maybe... this never would have happened. I...

...

I...!!

RUFFLE

しゃっ…

...!

WHIMPER...

クゥン…

...

It's... okay...

SS

It's okay...

Thank you.

Wajima-kun.

That was the end...

...

...of a long day for me and Sherdog...

...

Yes, Ma'am...

Takeruuuu!!

... Hm?

Have you heard about Kikuchi-sensei?!

DAZE
ぼーー

Oh...Miki. Good morning.

Oh... Oh yeah...

...

It's all everybody's talking about!!

Takeru!! That teacher from your school turned herself in this morning.

...

TEP TEP

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

You better actually show up at club today!

...

...Well, I'm just a ghost member.

Ugh! I got you into that club! You're making me look bad!

So why aren't you more worked up about it?

Isn't this exactly where the London Academy Paper would come in?!

ARF

ARF

...So hey, Sherdog.

That was a tough one, even for the great Sherlock Holmes...

She was quite the formidable opponent...

The woman teacher, Karen Kikuchi...

BAH

That's Sherlock.

...I had to take a chance. Forgive me.

BAM

SHAKE _ SHAKE

BAM

You really startled me when you took off with my shoe.

RRRRAAAGH!

STAMP

STAMP

was long gone, thanks to those trash collectors.

You know that the real evidence

and caught Sensei when she came to find the evidence,

...Yeah, I know.

We may not have solved this case.

If I hadn't made that fake call,

Oops! I forgot to return the wig...

!

Uh.

No one said it was!!

What?! I-it wasn't me!

Principal! The wig is missing from the uniform display mannequin!

How to wear your uniform.

MURMUR

MURMUR

!

Well done, my good man.

...But, well...this case is solved.

Come on... Pull yourself together, Watson.

What?! I beg your pardon!

Not sure how I feel about getting complimented by my dog...

HMM...

Whaaaaat?!

Why?!

...you may be doomed to a life of solving crimes!

Heh.

Now that the great Sherlock Holmes has been reborn...

What?

I'll have you know this isn't the end of it, Watson.

for me and my dog to solve.

Still, just as Sherdog predicted,

the future was filled with all kinds of mysteries

To be continued in Volume 2

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Taro and Jiro (page 16)

As Takeru's father suggests, there is a movie Nankyoku Monogatari (released in the United States as Antarctica) about a Japanese expedition to the South Pole, and the fate of the dogs that were left behind when the expedition failed. The two lead dogs are Taro and Jiro. The other dog names suggested by Takeru's father are Pochi, the Japanese equivalent of Spot; Hachikō, after the faithful dog who waited for his master every day at the Shibuya train station; Patrasche, the title dog in the book A Dog of Flanders; and Shiro, meaning White.

In My Office (page 20)

Officer Wajima's office will be found at the nearby kōban, loosely translated as "police box." Kōban are like miniature police stations, spread throughout the community, bringing the police close to the community so they can respond more readily to the citizens' needs.

Wa To Son (page 35)

While they usually represent ideas (words), Chinese characters can be used to represent syllables or sounds to spell foreign words phonetically. The name written on Takeru's bike is, of course, his name, Wajima Takeru (with his family name first, as is the custom in Asian languages). The three characters in his name can be pronounced Wa Jima Takeru, or Wa To Son. The O after the T is swallowed (almost silent), and so when said quickly, it forms the name Watson.

Plum Group, (page 38)

The closest thing Takeru has to the sort of hat Sherlock Holmes is known for wearing is his old preschool hat. You can tell it's from his earlier education based on the fact that his class, instead of having a number or letter, is named after a fruit.

Non-swimmers (page 151)

Just a bit of trivia: what Karen Kikuchi actually called this bunch was "hammer boys," because in Japan, someone who can't swim is called a "hammer."

Sherlock Bones volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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